

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

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Friday, 17 January 2025

NATIONAL

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Naga New Year Festival celebrated in Homalin

NATIONAL

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New standing Buddha statue to be built in Kyaikto Township, Mon State

BUSINESS

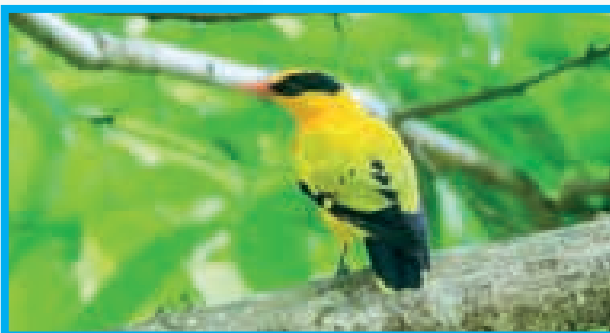
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Myanmar prepping for maize export under zero Customs tariff



Northern Shovelers seek winter shelter at **Hlawga Park**, home to 82 bird species



Photos depict migratory birds in Hlawga Park. Established in 1982, Hlawga National Park is located in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, and a popular destination for both locals and tourists.

Hlawga Park has recorded the arrival of 82 bird species this cold season, and two northern shovelers, which are of great interest to the public, were included, said Activity Manager Ko Nyan Lin. Among these 82 species, 19 migratory birds were included and two northern shovelers, which have a large, flat beak, were recorded for the first time last year at Hlawga Park. “The census conducted

Migratory birds can be spotted in Hlawga Park from September to February.

these days shows a total of 82 species of both native and migratory birds. Of these, 19 are migratory birds. Among the migratory birds, northern shovelers recorded for the first time in the park last year were included. This year, there were

two. Bird watchers are interested in this bird,” he said. Currently, there are regular visitors of bird enthusiasts and people who want to have photographs. If a unique migratory bird species is recorded, people from Yangon, Mandalay

and other areas will come more to see it, he added. Migratory birds can be seen in Hlawga Park from September to February. In addition to northern shovelers, other unique and beautiful migratory birds are present in the park

and people are invited to visit the park. The park is open from 8 am to 5 pm and the entrance fee is K4,000 for adults, K2,500 for children aged 3 to 10 years and K3,000 to K10,000 per vehicle depending on the size. — MT/ZN

NATIONAL

Fostering a Love for Forests: Cultivating Trees for a Greener Future

EMBRACING a love for forests and nurturing the growth of all planted trees is essential.

Trees must be systematically cultivated to ensure a lush, green environment and favourable weather for future generations.

(Excerpt from the speech given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the first monsoon tree-growing ceremony 2024 of Tatmadaw families at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) on 7 June 2024)

State Administration Council Law No 2/2025

CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY

Chapter XI-a Registration

31-a. The person or organization wishing to operate domestic production, processing or sale for livestock farming, pedigree animal farming, incubating, beekeeping, or animals, animal products, genetically modified bioproducts, feedstuffs, animal medicines, slaughtering houses or butchery businesses shall apply for registration of relevant types or works to the head of township department under the prescribed criteria.

- 31-b. (a) The head of the township department
- (1) shall allow or refuse registration after verifying whether it is aligned with relevant criteria or not when receiving the application under Section 31-a.
 - (2) If the application is aligned with the criteria, the head of the township department shall order the applicants to pay designated fees for the types of materials or works they can allow and issue the licence. If he refuses the registration, he shall inform the applicant to reapply for the licence under the prescribed criteria.
 - (3) He shall submit the types of materials or works he does not have the authority to allow to the head of the district department.
- (b) The head of the district department -
- (1) shall allow or refuse registration after verifying whether it is aligned with relevant criteria or not when receiving the application under Clause (3) of Subsection (a).
 - (2) if the application is aligned with the criteria, the head of the township department shall order the applicants to pay designated fees for the types of materials or works he can allow and issue the licence. If he refuses the registration, he shall inform the applicant to reapply for the licence under the prescribed criteria.
 - (3) He shall submit the types of materials or works he does not have the authority to allow to the head of the region, state department or Union Territory.
- (c) The head of the region or state department or Union Territory -
- (1) shall allow or refuse registration after verifying whether it is aligned with relevant criteria or not when receiving the application under Clause (3) of Subsection (b).
 - (2) if the application is aligned with the criteria, the head of the township department shall order the applicants to pay designated fees for the types of materials or works he can allow and issue the licence. If he refuses the registration, he shall inform the applicant to reapply for

the licence under the prescribed criteria.

- (3) He shall submit the types of materials or works he does not have authority to allow to the Director-General.

(d) The Director-General -

- (1) shall allow or refuse registration after verifying whether it is aligned with relevant criteria or not when receiving the application under Clause (3) of Subsection (c).
- (2) if the application is aligned with the criteria, the head of the township department shall order the applicants to pay designated fees for the types of materials or works he can allow and issue the licence. If he refuses the registration, he shall inform the applicant to reapply for the licence under the prescribed criteria.

31-c. Those receiving the licence -

- (a) shall follow the discipline mentioned in the licence.
 - (b) shall accept inspection of the department.
 - (c) shall inform the department about suspicious reasons for the outbreak of infectious disease at their businesses as quickly as possible.
 - (d) Strictly follow the directives of the department after informing under Subsection (c).
13. The word “permit or endorsement certificate” mentioned in the Preamble of Section 37, Subsections (c) and (d) of Section 37, Sections 42, 43 and 48 of the law shall be substituted with the word “permit, endorsement certificate or licence” respectively.
14. The words “establishment of slaughterhouse” and “carrying out slaughterhouse establishment” mentioned in Subsection (c) of Section 42, Sections 44 and 49 of the law shall be substituted with the word “slaughterhouse business”.
15. Section 53-a shall be added behind Section 53 of the law as follows: -
53-a. The ministry has the authority to allow a total or partial exemption for service charges and other fees for the sake of the people.
16. Section 55-a shall be added behind Section 55 of the law as follows: -
55-a. Rules, work procedures, orders and directives of the Animal Health and Development Law revoked by this law can be used whenever these are aligned with this law.

I hereby sign this law under Section 419 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Chairman
State Administration Council

CORRIGENDUM

Please read ‘... Foreign Employment and Tourism of Sri Lanka ...’ in place of ‘... Foreign Employment and Tourism of Nepal ...’ in the Congratulatory messages on page 2 of The Global New Light of Myanmar on 9 January 2025. Errors are regretted. — Ed.

Gold Market Rate as of 16 January 2025

THE price of one tical (16.329325 grammes) of gold with density of 19.25 grammes per cubic centimetre and above is K5,400,000, as established by the Mineral (Gold) Reference Price Determination Committee.



Ministry of Health
53rd Myanmar Health Research Congress
20 to 24 January 2025

Department of Medical Research (Head Office) No 5, Ziwaka Street, Dagon Township, Yangon

NATIONAL

Residents Urged to Prioritize Public Safety Amid Armed Terrorist Threats

ARMED terrorists have been launching attacks by using residential homes and administrative buildings in towns and villages as cover, where they have forcibly settled. They aim to shield themselves from Tatmadaw counterattacks while also persuading temporarily displaced persons to return to their native areas and recruiting new members. That enables terrorists to use civilians as human shields. Tatmadaw is committed to safeguarding the sovereignty of the State and will respond to these threats based on intelligence and prevailing conditions. Therefore, residents in areas where terrorists have taken control must prioritize their safety and protect themselves from being exploited by these groups.

(Excerpt from guidance given by Chairman of the State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to Shan State cabinet members and state-level departmental officials on 3 September 2024)

Loikaw terror attack, natural disaster victims receive cash and food aid

STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San attended the ceremony to offer basic food supplies and cash awards to the temporarily displaced persons in Loikaw Township on Wednesday.

These people fled their native places due to terrorist attacks and natural disasters and returned to their towns. At the ceremony, Union Minister Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung clarified the cash assistance to those whose houses were destroyed in terrorist attacks, and rice, cooking oil, beans and salt provided by the Ministry of Border Affairs for the temporarily displaced persons for natural disasters. State Chief Minister U Zaw Myo Tin clarified the donation of rice, cooking oil, beans and salt by the Kayah State government to those who fled Loikaw and returned.



The presentation of food supplies and cash awards to temporarily displaced people in Loikaw on 15 January, attended by SAC Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Admiral Tin Aung San.

At the ceremony, the Admiral and party donated K211.1 million to repair 251 houses and foodstuffs to 1,661 temporarily displaced persons due to natural disasters and 334 people who returned to Loikaw.

They also observed the repair work on the IPRD building of Loikaw District, the Community Centre and training hall, staff housing in Naungya (A) Ward and accommodation of staff. They cordially met with the staff and

families and presented foodstuffs to them.

In the evening, the dinner marking Kayah State Day was held at the State Hall, and the State chief minister made a greeting speech and gave the

commemorative gifts to the guests.

The dinner event contained traditional dance performances of Kayah, Kayan, Shan and Pa-O ethnic dance groups. The Admiral gave K3 million and a flower bouquet to the ethnic traditional dance troupes and music bands.

The Admiral and party inspected the effective use of water using solar power well at the seasonal crop plantation of the state Department of Agriculture and plantations in the model field yesterday morning.

The Admiral also met with staff of the Electricity and Energy departments at the Kayah State Hall, and the relevant officials clarified the power distribution system, power generation system of Bilu Creek, national grid (Loikaw) and fuel distribution.

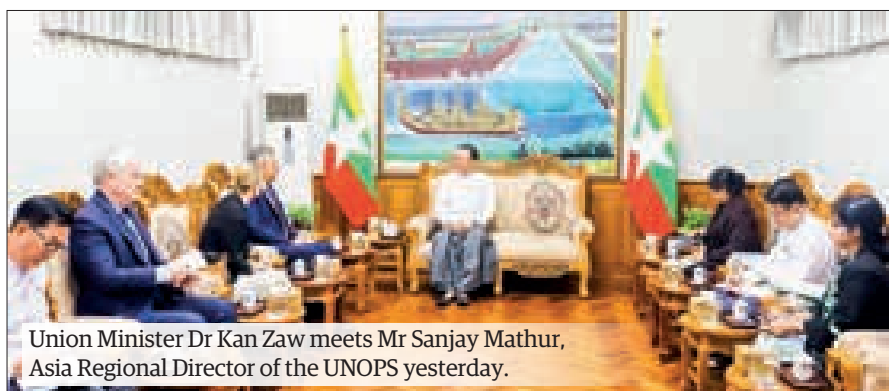
The Admiral made proper instructions after hearing the reports. — MNA/KTZH

MIFER Union Minister receives UNOPS's Asia Regional Director

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Dr Kan Zaw received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Asia Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the UNOPS team at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Both sides discussed the ongoing cooperation programmes in Myanmar and the plans between Myanmar and UNOPS.

Officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and UNOPS representatives were also present at the meeting. — MNA



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw meets Mr Sanjay Mathur, Asia Regional Director of the UNOPS yesterday.

Deputy PM MoFA Union Minister receives UNOPS's Asia Regional Director



The UNOPS Asia Regional Director calls on Deputy Prime Minister Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Than Swe yesterday.

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe received Mr Sanjay Mathur, Regional Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Asia Region in Bangkok, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They exchanged views on matters

related to UNOPS's ongoing activities in Myanmar and discussed enhancing cooperation between Myanmar and UNOPS.

Also present at the meeting were Ms Sara Austin Netzer, Country Director and Representative of UNOPS in Myanmar and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

NATIONAL

Deputy PM MoD Union Minister attends 2025 Naga New Year Festival

STATE Administration Council Member, Deputy Prime Minister and Union Minister for Defence General Maung Maung Aye, accompanied by a council member, union ministers, the Sagaing Region chief minister, senior Tatmadaw officers and relevant departmental officials, attended the Traditional Naga New Year Festival for 2025 which was held in Lahe in the Naga Self-Administered Zone on 15 January.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the need to preserve the relevant tradition and customary law from generation to generation by Naga ethnic people and ethnic nationals living in unity in the country. He appreciated the efforts in preserving the tradition, customs and dance of the Naga people.

He added that the government initiated 82 projects with the Union government budget and 158 projects with the region



The 2025 Naga New Year Festival is in full swing in Lahe, Naga Self-Administered Zone, on 15 January. Attendees include SAC Member, Deputy Prime Minister, and Union Defence Minister General Maung Maung Aye.

budget in the 2024-2025 financial year aiming for sector-wise development of the Naga region.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Myat Kyaw made a New Year remark, and Naga Traditional Literature and Culture

Committee Chairman U Paung Khu presented a New Year gift to the Union Minister.

General Maung Maung Aye and the party also presented regional development materials to the relevant officials, and the

ceremony was concluded.

They proceeded to the traditional booths of Naga ethnics.

At noon, the Deputy Prime Minister and party inspected the Hway Htike hydropower project in Lahe township, People's

Hospital, Government Technical High School, Moe Dan lake resort construction, vocational training centre for women and Training Schools for the Development of Nationalities Youth from Border Areas.

In the evening, he enjoyed a traditional Naga bonfire and lit the bonfire together with the participants. After enjoying the dances of Naga ethnics, he presented the flower basket and cash awards to them.

The Traditional Naga New Year Festival aims to preserve Naga traditions and customs as well as cultural heritage, enhance Naga's traditional culture and fine arts, revitalize friendly relations and mutual understandings among Naga ethnics, participate in the development of the Naga region and forge the Union spirit based on fraternity among Naga tribes. International and local travellers pay visits to the festival and enjoy the bonfire happily. — MNA/KTZH

MOI Union Minister receives Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar)

UNION Minister for Information U Maung Maung Ohn received Chairman U Myat Thu Win of the Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar), and his team yesterday at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed issues such as empowering and increasing opportunities for people with disabilities, promoting equality and cooperation

in society, including people with disabilities in innovation and sports, connecting them to employment that requires skills and expertise, and providing television awareness programmes.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Ye Tint, Permanent Secretary U Win Kyaw Aung, departmental heads, and officials from the foundation. — MNA/TH



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets the delegation led by Chairman U Myat Thu Win of the Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Graduate officers decorated with wings in 86th Intake of Pilot Course

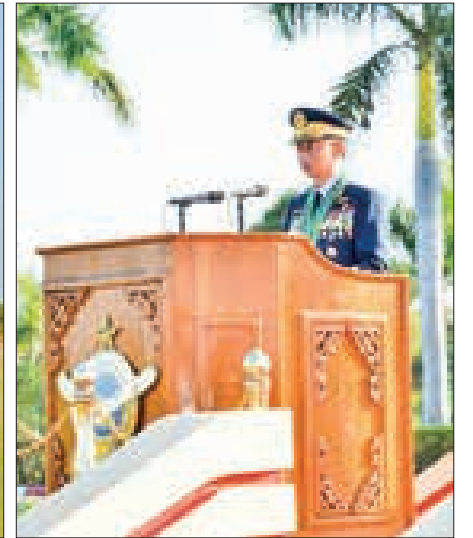
ON behalf of the Chairman of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony of the 86th Intake of Pilot Course in Meiktila yesterday.

The Commander-in-Chief (Air) took the salute of the graduate company and companies of honour.

Instructor pilots from aircraft and helicopters in squadrons flew over the parade to salute the Commander-in-Chief (Air).

General Tun Aung decorated all graduate officers with pilot wings individually and presented the model pilot award to Air 4544 Lt Hset Naing Lwin and the excellent award in studies to Air 4588 Lt Yuzana Tun from the 86th intake of the pilot course.

On behalf of the SAC Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, General Tun Aung delivered a speech. He said: The Government has set great expectations, investing considerable time, resources, and finances in training to become pilots. Hence, pilots should value themselves and strive to realize the expectations of the State and Tatmadaw.



Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung, in behalf of the State Administration Council Chairman Defence Services Commander-in-Chief, speaks on the graduation occasion of the 86th Intake of Pilot Course in Meiktila yesterday.

aw.

The tasks assigned, whether in combat operations, training, administration, or other responsibilities, can only be successfully carried out with a strong and resilient mindset. Those who will operate aircraft and helicopters for combat missions must always maintain a high level of combat readiness and determination. They must strive to develop a robust and positive mental attitude, building confidence and belief, to effectively fulfil their duties.

Myanmar Tatmadaw pilots must fully comply with the laws, regulations, orders, and directives issued by the gov-

ernment and Tatmadaw, as well as the local orders, procedures, and practices. They must also strictly adhere to the aviation regulations and standards.

As they have been entrusted pilot wings to serve assigned duties of combat and training missions, alongside their senior pilots, not only will they be responsible for their assigned aviation tasks, but they will also be expected to perform other duties effectively and proficiently.

The pilots have to serve their assigned duties with the sacrifices and struggles endured by all members of the Tatmadaw (Air) as role models, and it is crucial to emphasize

that each pilot should strive to become a capable aviator trusted by the nation and Tatmadaw, dedicating all their efforts and talents to this mission.

General Tun Aung greeted instructor pilots who saluted him in formations of aircraft. He spoke words of honour to graduate officers who secured outstanding awards and their parents in the training at the Flying Training Base.

Also, present at the graduation ceremony were Lt-Gen Htein Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Chief of Staff (Air) Lt-Gen Zaw Win Myint, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik and officials attended the graduation dinner.

Ko Htaik, senior air force officers, senior officers from Meiktila Station and guests.

Those pilots will be assigned to relevant aircraft and helicopter squadrons.

In the evening, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Tun Aung and his wife together with Lt-Gen Htein Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Chief of Staff (Air) Lt-Gen Zaw Win Myint, Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Ko Htaik and officials attended the graduation dinner.

After the dinner, the General cordially greeted graduate officers and their parents and relatives. — MNA/TTA

Naga New Year Festival celebrated in Homalin

THE Naga Literature and Culture Committee organized the 2025 Naga New Year Festival at Naga tradition ground in Homalin township, Homalin District, Sagaing Region, on 15 January.

The festival was inaugurated in accordance with Naga tradition and culture. Patron of committee U Peter and District Administration Body Chairman U Ye Win made greeting speeches, and relevant officials explained the emergence of the Naga New Year Festival.

Naga leaders then presented New Year gifts and awarded the winners of volleyball and futsal competitions marking the

2025 Naga New Year festival.

Makuri Naga traditional dances, including male dance, female dance, Tankun dance, female fire dance, Payar female dance, Naga's traditional fashion show, Naga youth dance and modern Naga dance were also performed.

The Naga New Year Day is a festival to exchange harvesting experiences, negotiate the work plans for coming year, admit sins and apologize, pray for abundant rice and foodstuffs and reunite relatives.

Attendees to the festival were served with traditional Naga food and juice. — Lin Lin (IPRD)/KTZH



Naga ethnic nationals joyously participate in the Naga New Year Festival in Homalin, Sagaing Region, on 15 January 2025.

NATIONAL



This photo showcases the sitting Buddha statue, the largest in Myanmar and the second largest in the world, located on Phayathonzu Mountain in Kyaikto Township.

New standing Buddha statue to be built in Kyaikto Township, Mon State

THE board of trustees of the Phayathonzu Mountain Monastery in Kyaikto Township, Mon State, announced that a new standing Buddha statue will be built near the sitting Buddha statue, which is the largest in Myanmar and the second largest in the world, located on Phayathonzu Mountain in Kyaikto Township.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the standing Buddha statue and the ceremony to receive

teachings from the abbot of the Phayathonzu Mountain Monastery were held on 10 January. The ground-breaking work has already begun.

The sitting Buddha statue and the Maha Bawdi Pagoda have already been placed on Phayathonzu Mountain in Kyaikto Township, and the new standing Buddha statue is going to be 363 feet tall, including its altar. — ASH/TH

73rd Buddha Pujaniya Festival to be held at Kaba Aye Pagoda



This image shows the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda.

THE 73rd Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, will be held from 4 to 9 February, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

“The 73rd Buddha Pujaniya Festival of the Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda will be held from 4 to 9 February with the recitation of Pathana, making Htamane [traditional Myanmar glutinous rice] at 7 am on 5 and 6 February and donating rice on 9 February,” said U Aung Koe, a member of Trustees Board of Kaba Aye Pagoda.

During the festival, alms will be offered and 45 members of the Sangha will consecrate the pagoda on the morning of 9 February whereas the well-wishers will donate rice to 48 members of the Sangha. — ASH/MKKS

Russia and Myanmar to expedite Popa 200-MW wind power project



A ceremony to clarify functionalities of the Popa 200-megawatt wind power project in progress at the office of the Mandalay Region government on 14 January.

THE Mandalay Region government is prepared to provide the necessary support for the swift implementation of the Popa wind

power project in line with State policies, through collaborative efforts between Russia and Myanmar, said Chief Minister U Myo

Aung of Mandalay Region.

The chief minister said so at a ceremony to clarify facts about the project by officials to implement the Popa 200-megawatt wind power project in Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region. The ceremony took place at the meeting hall of the Mandalay Region government office on 14 January.

Rosatom Renewable Energy of Russia and Myanmar citizen-owned Zeya & Associates will jointly implement the project.

At the ceremony, Z & A Company officials explained the project purpose, the project land plots, findings from the ground survey, and facts about the project.

In his speech, the region-

al chief minister revealed that the government strives to meet electricity demands through renewable energy sources, including this wind power project. He mentioned that the Ministry of Electric Power has signed eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to implement wind power projects, which are currently undergoing feasibility studies. The Popa 200-megawatt wind power project is one of these MoU projects.

Russia's Rosatom has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power for three wind power projects to generate electricity. These projects include the 116-megawatt wind power project in Minhla of Magway Region, the 56-megawatt project in Mindon of Magway Region, and the 200-megawatt project in Popa of Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region.

The country uses natural gas in thermal power plants to generate electricity, accounting for some percentage of production. However, due to a decrease in the availability of natural gas, approximately 291 megawatts have been reduced. At present, an average of 2,200 megawatts of electricity can be generated daily, with a supply of only about 50 per cent of the total production capacity.

Currently, electricity is being supplied to Yangon Region at 48 per cent, Mandalay Region at 17 per cent and the remaining regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw at 35 per cent.

According to the announcement released on 6 January 2025, due to the destruction of 14 major power transmission lines — 230 kV and 132 kV — from power plants, electricity generation has decreased by 1,009 megawatts. — Htun Htun/TTA

Pangpet Steel Mill prepping to operate 3 iron foundries



Pictures show structures of the No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) and its operation.

THE No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) in Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State has been planning to operate three iron foundries to produce pig iron, said Managing Director U Min Thu of the No 1 Heavy Industries Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry.

The No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) has been negotiating to sign with foreign experts to

operate iron foundries.

Out of 22 foundries including the iron factory under No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet), 19 were operated on 21 January 2023 and three more are planned to run.

If all workshops under the Steel Mill are fully operational, pig iron can be manufactured. Those pig iron will be sent to No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) to pro-

duce steel bars. It will fulfil the steel requirement of domestic industrial parks for sure.

No 2 Steel Mill (Pangpet) has been producing over 70 million tonnes of iron ores. The capacity of the mill is estimated at 200,000 tonnes of output. At present, the mill will continue working together with foreign experts for maintenance and operations. — ASH/KK

Myanmar prepping for maize export under zero Customs tariff

MYANMAR'S maize industry is currently making ready to export the maize with the exemption of Customs tariffs to Thailand.

Thailand gives the green light for maize imports under zero tariff (with Form-D), between 1 February and 31 August. However, Thailand imposes a maximum tax rate of 73 per cent on maize imports to protect the rights of their growers if the maize is imported during the maize season of Thailand. Therefore, traders are stocking them to export under duty exemption.

Myanmar's maize is primarily exported to the Philippines, Vietnam and India through maritime trade. They are also sent to

neighbouring countries through land borders.

Additionally, China has been purchasing Myanmar's maize through cross-border trade under the alternative development programme. Legitimate maize trade between Myanmar and China commenced at the end of 2023. A total of 112 Myanmar companies have been permitted for maize exports.

Myanmar exports around two million tonnes of maize. The corn is cultivated in Shan, Kachin, Kayah and Kayin states and Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions. Myanmar has three corn seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. Myanmar's annual corn output is estimated at 2.5-3 million tonnes. — NN/KK



A farm worker sorts corn for export processing.

CBM sells \$25.35M, 369,000 yuan on 15 Jan

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped over US\$25.35 million and 369,000 yuan on 15 January and over \$1,600 and 556,000 Thai baht on 14 January into the financial market.

CBM announced on 13 January to sell \$25 million to fuel oil importers soon after selling 600,000 yuan on that day.

CBM injected \$3.9 million on 11 January, 714,000 yuan on 10 January, \$2.2 million on 9 January, \$256,000 on 8 January again after sales of over \$2.15 million on 7 January, \$25 million and 2.8 million baht on 6 January, 510,000 yuan on 3 January, \$25 million, over 670,000 yuan and 2.45 million baht on 2 January into the financial market.

Therefore, CBM injected over \$54 million, 1.3 million yuan and 5.3 million baht so far within ten days.

CBM pumped \$144 million, 321 mil-



lion baht and over 12 million yuan in December 2024, over \$59 million, over 280 million baht and 8.78 million yuan in November and over \$91 million, over 610 million baht and 9.8 million yuan in October into the financial market.

CBM aims to curb the instability in the foreign exchange market and the currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March, it has been joining with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws. CBM allowed authorized dealers (private banks) to operate online foreign exchange trading freely as per the market rate depending on supply and demand, starting from 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

CTD to open Bakery & Pastry ToT courses

CENTRE for Tourism Development under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will conduct a Bakery & Pastry Course (Batch 14) from 31 January to 28 February and a Training of Trainer (Batch 6) Course from 3 to 31 March 2025 from Monday to Friday (9:30 am-4 pm) at the CTD in Pabedan Township, Yangon.

Those who will attend those courses must meet the criteria. Those who want to attend the Bakery & Pastry course must have a middle school education certificate and they must be 18-40 years old.

Those for training must present a matriculation examination certificate and they must be between 25 and 45 years old with three-year bakery experience. They all must be free to complete a one-month course and they must not attend any course simultaneously. The selected trainees must deposit K50,000 and it will be refunded

after the course.

Those enthusiastic can apply for the Bakery and Pastry Course (Batch 14) on 13-20 January and the Training of Trainer Course on 13 January to 13 February. Household registration certificate, citizenship scrutiny card, passport-sized photos, COVID-19 vaccination certificate for three doses, ward administrator's recommendation, health clearance certificate for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, education certificate (student ID or recommendation letter or matriculation pass certificate or bachelor degree) must be provided.

Application forms can be downloaded via <https://shorturl.at/N1fSa> and registered through tts.bakery4042@gmail.com. Individuals can register at the CTD office. They can enquire about details through the contact numbers of CTD 01 8377559 and 01 8251855. — NN/KK

OPINION

Enhance the life of youth with knowledge and healthcare

THE key factors for every human being are education and health. Just as an uneducated person cannot enter the world, a person with poor health will not be able to achieve success or make any progress. Only with education can a person work in a field related to their expertise. Similarly, without good health, one cannot enjoy life fully.

Education means the knowledge and understanding of what is true and correct. In the world, the absence of light is a mistake and a harmful thing that will continue to spread its evil, causing

negative effects. As such, the government of Myanmar is focusing especially on the development of education and healthcare for the people, working diligently to ensure progress and improvement.

Moreover, young people are playing a key role in the country's development plans, contributing their strength and enthusiasm. They are actively involved in technical areas, not only excelling in their academic knowledge but also engaging in creative innovations, and it is essential that they continue to do so.

True knowledge goes beyond reading books or documents; it is vast, profound, and complex. Many struggle to grasp its full depth, which can lead to uncertainty or even fatal consequences. Knowledge is not confined to academic learning; it is a lifelong journey. Those who possess it can assess and adapt to life's challenges and opportunities, using both intellect and emotional intelligence. Mastery in balancing the mind, heart,

and actions allows one to navigate the complexities of existence with true understanding. Knowledge is the most valuable asset in life, and it comes in various forms, including what is learned through books and study, as well as the insights gained from work experience. Both are vital for young people to thrive.

Young people, together with their skills and knowledge, will become educated and knowledgeable. Education has become an indispensable asset for the whole world. Schools are established to provide education, while sports fields are built to allow young people to practise sports. Some schools combine education and sports training, and these schools are being made available.

Young people should thrive in a well-rounded education system, focusing on critical thinking and problem-solving. In literature, they should find fulfilment not just through reading, but by also exploring health topics. Sports play a key role in maintaining health. Education is a vital pathway to enlightenment, and to achieve it, individuals must prioritize learning and skill development for the betterment of society.

What is Tax?

1. A tax is money charged to a taxpayer, an individual or a legal entity, to support government spending and public expenditures. All countries have a tax system in place to pay for the functions of government. In terms of economics, taxation is the compulsory transfer of payment from households or businesses to the government. Taxes comprise direct and indirect taxes. Direct tax is paid to the government directly by the taxpayers such as income tax, corporate tax and property tax. Indirect taxes are levied on goods and services and these are transferable with consumers ultimately paying the tax. Examples of indirect taxes are Sales Tax, Value-added Tax, Goods and Services Tax and Customs Duties. The taxation process involves two primary players, taxpayers and the tax office. The taxpayer is responsible for paying taxes and the tax office is responsible for collecting taxes on behalf of the government.

When did tax start in Myanmar?

2. In Myanmar, during the Bagan dynasties, the citizens paid taxes and the authorities levied taxes. Those duties and responsibilities to levy taxes and pay taxes on both sides were stated in Razabiseka Adeikhtan (oath) and Singaha Taya Lay-pa, which are the basic concepts of taxation administration of Myanmar kings. In the ceremony of the king's coronation, he was asked to rule his country according to the law and order in receiving public taxes, and in exploiting one-tenth of the public tax and govern his people with justice and mercy. In the periods of Bagan, Sagaing, Pin-ya, Inwa, Toungoo, Nyaung-Yan and Konbaung, taxes were levied throughout the period. The records of collecting taxes can be found in the inscriptions of Bagan. In those periods, paying taxes could be in the form of garments, copper or paddy. However, the rates of tax on land varied from region to region because different production rates depended on different kinds of soil and the attitudes of the local chief who levied taxes. In addition, taxes were collected on different resources such as gold, silver, ruby, topaz, white copper and bronze.

After the British annexation of the whole of Myanmar in 1886, the colonial administration was introduced by the British. Then, Division, Subdivision, Districts, Townships and Villages are divided to administer in Myanmar. In 1888, a financial commissioner was entrusted to control the revenue collection. The revenue collected from the respective townships was submitted to the central treasury in Yangon. The most important taxation under British rule was land

Taxes and Tax Appeal in Myanmar

tax and other taxes practised in the colonial period include Tha-tha-me-da Tax, Capitation Tax, Excise Tax and Municipal Tax.

After Independence, the Internal Revenue Department was established on 1-10-1972 to develop the new administration system by merging all separate departments. At the time of establishment, IRD collected ten types of tax listed as income tax, profit tax, trade tax, excise tax, Aung Ba Lay Thein Su tax, stamp duty, land tax, water tax and dam tax, In-Ai tax, and mineral tax.

After 1988, when the government changed to a market economy, to make the tax collection system more effective, five types of tax, namely land tax, water tax, embankment tax, excise tax and mineral tax were transferred to the General Administration Department. At the moment, IRD is responsible for collecting five types of taxes, namely income tax, commercial tax, specific goods tax, state lottery tax and stamp duty.

What are the different types of tax systems?

3. Tax systems are structured depending on the ability-to-pay principle. This principle states that taxes should be levied on people according to how well they can carry the burden. Three types of tax are listed as

- Proportional taxes
- Regressive taxes
- Progressive taxes

Proportional taxes also known as flat taxes require all taxpayers to pay the same fraction of their income whatever their level of income is. The tax rate doesn't change whether income increases or decreases. The weak point in proportional taxes is that the gap between the rich and the poor is becoming higher as time passes by. Regressive taxes require high-income taxpayers to pay a smaller fraction of their income than low-income taxpayers. That means as income rises, the tax rate decreases. A regressive tax is practised by countries when collecting indirect taxes. No matter someone's income level, he or she can purchase the product or services at the same price. Progressive taxes mean when income rises, the tax rate increases which means high-income taxpayers are required to pay a larger



A tax is money charged to a taxpayer, an individual or a legal entity, to support government spending and public expenditures. ILLUSTRATION: PEXELS

fraction of their income than low-income taxpayers. The tax rates differ based on the amount of income with a threshold. Many developing countries practice progressive income tax structures to alleviate poverty by redistributing wealth. Myanmar also practices progressive taxes, which means higher income levels are taxed at increased rates.

Who administers taxes in Myanmar?

4. The Internal Revenue Department is the tax agency which is authorized to collect different types of taxes in Myanmar. The Ministry of Planning and Finance merged the previously independent Profit Tax Department, Commercial Tax Department, Excise Department, State Lottery Department, Stamp Duty Department, Revenue Section of the General Administration Department, and the Office of the Financial Commissioner and originated the Internal Revenue Department on 1 October 1972, to oversee all tax assessments. Two methods of tax collection system practised by IRD are;

- Official Assessment System (OAS)
- Self-Assessment System (SAS)

Under the Official Assessment System, the tax office makes assessments based on the facts provided by the taxpayer. That system puts a lot of authority in the hands of a tax officer as the individual tax officer is responsible for taxpayer service, tax audit and tax collection. According to human nature,

their reluctance to pay tax out of their pocket, that system could lead to a lot of negotiations between tax authorities and taxpayers. Hence, IRD attempts to put the Self-Assessment System into practice as a part of their reform process. The four tax offices using the Self-Assessment System are the Large Taxpayers' Office (1), (2) and Medium Taxpayers' Office (1), (2). The tax collection of these offices is 80 per cent of the total tax collection. In a self-assessment system, taxpayers must calculate the amount of tax due from the income they receive or will receive and pay it within a specified period. In addition, quarterly tax return forms and annual tax return forms must be submitted on time within the prescribed time limit according to law. Taxpayers may request an extension of time if such timely filing is difficult. Taxpayers may inquire about matters related to tax laws in person, in writing, or by telephone at the Taxpayer Service Department of IRD.

What is a Tax Appeal?

5. Tax disputes occur when taxpayers disagree with the assessment order provided by tax authorities. When tax disputes occur, tax appeals become effective. Tax appeal is a common way to resolve any tax disagreements taxpayers have with the tax agency. Under a particular tax law, the right to tax appeal if one is dissatisfied with the assessment order is provided. Thus, tax appeals are a legal process by which taxpayers can challenge tax assessments or decisions

made by tax authorities. Tax appeal aims to ensure fairness and accuracy in tax administration.

In the tax appeal process, there are two stages listed as

- Internal Review
- External Review

An internal review is a tax appeal process where the dispute is reviewed by officials within the same tax authority or department that made the initial decision. This review is conducted within the tax agency or department and tax authorities reassess the original tax decision. Internal review is often quicker, less formal and cheaper than going through external channels. If the taxpayers reach satisfaction, they are not required to go through an external review. An external review is a tax appeal process which takes place outside the tax authority and involves an independent body or tribunal. If the tax dispute remains unresolved after the internal review, taxpayers can proceed to external review. The external review process is more impartial and formal. The judgment passed by the external body is binding on both the taxpayer and the tax authority. In some countries, the decision passed by such an external body is final and conclusive and in some countries, if the taxpayer remains dissatisfied, he can proceed to the highest jurisdiction in the country.

How was the Revenue Appellate Tribunal formed in Myanmar?

6. In Myanmar, tax appeal was introduced in 1954 and the Income Tax Tribunal was formed under subsection (a) of Section 5 of the Burma Income Tax Act and only income tax appeals were adjudicated at that time. In 1972, the Revenue Appellate Tribunal was formed by Notification 120 dated 23-10-1972 of the Ministry of Planning and Finance with four members including the Chairperson to hear and adjudicate not only income tax appeal cases but also appeals, revisions, reviews and references related to customs duties, excise duties and stamp duties. Subsequently, the Income Tax Tribunal was changed into the Revenue Appellate Tribunal. Later, the Revenue Appellate Tribunal was formed by Notification 12 dated 11-12-1976 of Cabinet in 1976, Notification 6/89 dated 28-7-1989 of Govern-

ment of the Union of Myanmar in 1989, Notification 54/2017 dated 31-5-2017 of Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 2017 respectively and cases were heard. The Tribunal was formed by Notifications of the Cabinet without legislation and cases were heard for a long time. In 2018, the Revenue Appellate Tribunal bill was submitted and the Law was enacted by Law 23 of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1-8-2018.

7. The Revenue Appellate Tribunal has quasi-judicial power, it is constituted of experts and experienced persons in the fields of law, taxation, accounting and auditing per international standards to adjudicate cases filed to the Tribunal regarding revenues collected by the Union Government and such cases are being heard independently and adjudicated impartially. In the exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (a) of Section 4 of the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Law, the Tribunal comprising eight members including the Chairperson was formed and assigned by the Union Government Notification in 2020.

Which types of cases can be filed to the Tribunal?

8. Four types of cases can be filed to the Tribunal such as appeal, revision, review and reference.

Appeal

Appeal means an appeal filed to the Tribunal against an assessment order passed by any department responsible for collecting internal revenue or by the Customs department or against a final decision on an assessment order made by any government department or organization assigned by the Union Government through a notification from time to time. An appeal may be filed to the Revenue Appellate Tribunal using the form prescribed by the Tribunal within 90 days from the date of the receipt of the said order. Even though filing has not been made during the limitation period, the appeal may be accepted if there is sufficient cause.

Revision

Revision means a case re-filed by an aggrieved person to the Tribunal, to revise, with respect to issues of fact, against the order passed by the Tribunal. Revision may be filed to the Tribunal using the form prescribed by the Tribunal within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the decision of the Tribunal.

Review

Review means a case re-filed to the Tribunal by any person receiving the decision of the Tribunal, to review the decision. The power is conferred upon the Revenue Appellate Tribunal to review its decision under the law. Review

may be filed to the Revenue Appellate Tribunal using the form prescribed by the Tribunal within 90 days from the date of the receipt of the decision of the Tribunal. Review may be filed to the Tribunal where there is reasonable ground following Rule 1, Order 47 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Reference

Reference means a case referred to the Supreme Court of the Union regarding issues of law, after hearing it by the full bench. When the applicant or respondent applies for a reference or any issue arises to refer the case to the Supreme Court of the Union, the full bench shall decide whether it should be referred. Reference may be filed to the Tribunal using the form prescribed by the Tribunal within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the judgment of the Tribunal.

The role of the Revenue Appellate Tribunal

9. Notwithstanding anything in any existing laws, revenue appeals shall be filed and heard only under Revenue Appellate Tribunal Law, which is promulgated in section 41 of the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Law. Thus, an appeal against orders or decisions of all kinds of revenue (taxes, fees, licence fees, permit fees or fines), against all forms of revenue in the schedule (1) of Union Taxation Law and customs duties shall be submitted to the Revenue Appellate Tribunal in line with the rules. Cases submitted to the Tribunal have been heard and adjudicated independently under the law and for cases heard by the Tribunal, the decision on issues of fact is final.

10. To conclude, the location of the Revenue Appellate Tribunal and its office is Office No 57, north of Thirimantine Road, Ottarathiri Township. Anyone willing to file an "appeal", everyone is welcome to reach the Revenue Appellate Tribunal office. RAT members and its staff have made earnest efforts to prevent revenue loss and provide the best service to every taxpayer. The Revenue Appellate Tribunal has strived to ensure justice, equality, the right of defence and the right of appeal for Myanmar citizens and taxpayers.

References

- *The Internal Revenue Department website*
- *The Revenue Appellate Tribunal website*
- *Taxpayers' Perception of Service of the Tax Office Under the Self-Assessment System*
- *Access to Tax Justice by Michael Walpole*
- *Revenues of Myanmar in the British Administration*

NATIONAL

VISITORS can now relax and observe golden deer at the Sanctuary, located about 11 miles north-east of Kyaukpadaung, Nyaung-U District, Mandalay Region. The place is near the globally renowned extinct volcano, Mount Popa and the herbal park.

The sanctuary is managed by the Forest Department and the Department of Environmental and Wildlife Conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Within this sanctuary, golden deer and barking deer roam freely and a 17-acre sandalwood forest has been cultivated and preserved. Originally planted in 1957-58 by former Forestry Commissioner U Su with 25 sandalwood trees spaced 20 feet apart, the forest expanded naturally through seeds dispersed by birds by creating today's lush sandalwood forest. Golden deer are now protected

Popa's Golden Deer Sanctuary offers peaceful retreat for visitors



Golden deer enjoying their feed at Popa's Golden Deer Sanctuary.

within this forest.

Visitors can access the sanctuary from the Popa Village road leading to the table moun-

tain which is starting at the entrance to the Popa Mountain Garden near the herbal park. The sanctuary offers breathtak-

ing natural beauty with dense vines and sandalwood trees that provide cool shade.

The sanctuary is home to 11

female golden deer, four males and barking deer including one male and four females. Visitors can photograph the golden deer and enjoy zip-lining through the natural forest. Whether visiting with family or friends, it is an ideal place for relaxation.

Covering about 17 acres, the sanctuary features a large pond where golden deer and samburs drink water as it is allowing visitors to enjoy the serene natural surroundings. Visitors can also feed the golden deer their favourite foods such as bran, and bananas. Feeding donations can be made for K50,000 per session through U Tin Ohn Kyaw, Assistant Director of the Popa Mountain Garden via KBZ Pay at 09 254028984. The natural habitat of Myanmar's golden deer is the Shwesettaw Sanctuary in Minbu Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, according to Deputy Director U Tin Ohn Kyaw. — Dipa Lin/ KZL

Tourist arrivals to Kalaw surge this month for cherry blossom season

ACCORDING to travel agencies, this month is the cherry blossom season in Kalaw, helping the town's tourist arrival mounted.

Cherry blossoms in late December through the whole of January in Kalaw Township so the visitor arrival is high.

"Tourist arrival in Kalaw has visibly risen this month. Hotels were fully booked throughout the last month, De-

ember, in Taunggyi and Kalaw. Hotel rooms have already been booked fully for the whole of January too. Cherries blossom in December and January, contributing to the visitor arrival to increase. People also go to visit other small towns where cherry trees are present," said Ko Sai from Shan Cherry Myay Travel & Tour.

The majority of visitors are from Yangon and Mandalay;

however, Yangonites account for 80 per cent of total tourist arrivals.

"Among visitors, Yangon residents accounted for nearly 80 per cent, followed by Mandalay. Kalaw clock tower, Kalaw Heritage Hotel, Kalaw viewpoint, Bawa Thantaya Bridge, Byike Hill, and Hnee Buddha Image are famous tourist destinations in Kalaw," he said. — Thit Taw/ZS



The scenery at the entrance to Kalaw.

Myanmar film 'The Obsession' hosts red carpet show



This photo depicts cast members and the production team at the 'The Obsession' red carpet show.

THE Myanmar movie 'The Obsession' held its red carpet show on 15 January at the Thamada Cinema, ahead of its nationwide release in major cinemas on 17 January.

Lu Nyo Chaw and Mel Min Bon co-wrote the storyline of 'The Obsession', with Mel Min Bon also taking on the roles of scriptwriter and director under Shwe Myanmar Film Production.

Lead actress Yadana Bo shared her experience portraying the character 'Moe Khit', describing it as one of the most challenging and rewarding roles of her career. She remarked, "In this film, I play Moe Khit, the

most intense role I've ever taken on. 'The Obsession' is unlike any film I've done before. My character, often misunderstood as a fierce woman, is incredibly powerful. The film masterfully blends romance with themes of hatred and pain, making it deeply emotional and thrilling."

The film features an impressive cast including Academy Nay Win, and Shein Tin Htoo as well as Academy Soe Myat Thuzar, Khine Hnin Wai, Yadana Bo, Chuu Lay and many other actors.

Due to some heart-pounding and electrifying scenes, the film is recommended for viewers under 13 years old to watch with parental guidance. — ASH/KZL

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw ships continue healthcare services for Maubin residents



Locals receive treatments and medicines under the Tatmadaw naval health ship programme in Maubin.

TATMADAW Naval Hospital Ships named Shwe Puzun and Saku continue providing healthcare services to locals in towns along the Ayeyawady River.

Specialist medical teams comprising specialists, doctors, and nurses from Tatmadaw established a temporary clinic at Dhamma Yadana Beikman of Aung Kyaikkhami Monastery in Htanee Village, Maubin Township, Maubin District, Ayeyawady Region, where they delivered healthcare services to 583 residents

from the township and surrounding villages.

During the healthcare programme, the medical team provided necessary treatments to 164 patients with general medical conditions, 23 patients with surgical issues, 14 obstetrics and gynaecology patients, 19 paediatric patients, 141 orthopaedic patients, 53 ENT patients, 117 ophthalmology patients and 52 dental patients.

Surgical operations were successfully performed on 15 patients. Diagnostic services were also provided to eight

patients through X-rays, 31 patients through television X-rays, 32 patients through ECG tests and 43 patients through laboratory examinations. Arrangements were made for seven patients requiring hospitalization to receive further treatment at nearby Tatmadaw hospitals.

Notably, Ma Thandar Htay who is the wife of U Aung Aung Oo from Kondaingkalay Village in Maubin Township successfully gave birth to a baby boy weighing 7 pounds and 3 ounces via caesarean section aboard the Shwe Puzun naval hospital ship at around 9:29 pm on 15 January.

Both the mother and child are in good health. Responsible officers presented gifts and cash assistance by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) to the newborn baby and mother.

This newborn is the first baby delivered during this healthcare mission and marks the 29th successful delivery recorded in the history of the Shwe Puzun riverine hospital ship. — MNA/KZL

Tatmadaw naval hospital ship commences healthcare services in Pulaw, Manikyun

THE Tatmadaw Naval Hospital Ship (Thanlwin) accompanied by specialist medical teams consisting of experienced physicians, surgeons and nurses delivered healthcare services to local communities along the Taninthayi coastal region.

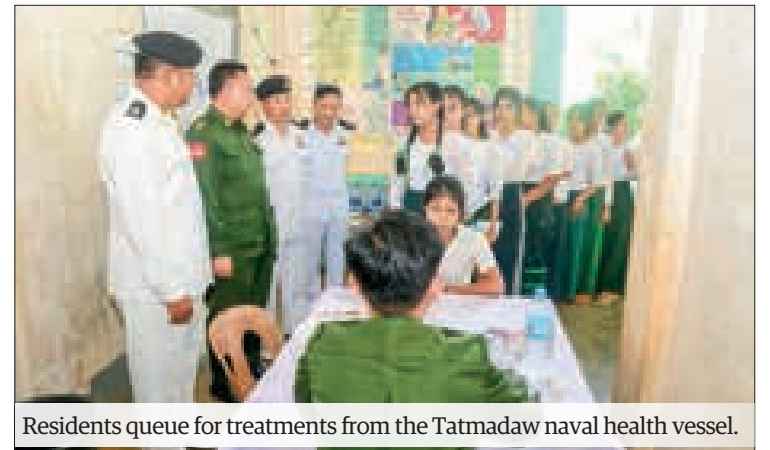
The initiative targets residents from nearby villages in Yangon Region's Cocogyun Township and Ayeyawady Region's Hainggyikyun Township.

Starting yesterday morning, the Tatmadaw Naval Hospital Ship (Thanlwin) established its base at Malit Island Station Hospital and commenced providing healthcare services to 392 residents from Mali Island and

surrounding areas.

The medical services rendered included treatments across various disciplines: 71 patients for general medical care, 20 for surgical conditions, 30 for obstetrics and gynaecology, 25 for paediatrics, 45 for orthopaedics, 20 for ENT (ear, nose, and throat) conditions, 95 for ophthalmology and 86 for dental and oral healthcare.

Diagnostic services were also provided to patients. Four patients underwent radiography, 24 were tested using the Atherosclerosis Analyzer, 24 received ECG heart examinations and 12 patients had laboratory tests conducted. — MNA/KZL



Residents queue for treatments from the Tatmadaw naval health vessel.

62 tonnes of illegal teak, timber seized

THE Forest Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation investigated the illegal teak and forest products with public participation by adopting the Community Monitoring and Reporting System (CMRS).

Between 6 and 12 January, 15.1652 tonnes of teak, 4.0934 tonnes of hardwood and 43.08 tonnes of other types of wood, totalling 62.3386 tonnes, including 10 vehicles, were seized and 25 offenders were arrested according to the reports of Nay Pyi Taw, state and region Forest Departments. — MNA/KTZH



Officials inspect the illegal teak logs.

Counter-argument to false information

Malicious media spread false report on aerial attack in Demoso

MALICIOUS news media outlets falsely reported that three civilians were killed and four others injured in an aerial attack on the eastern part of Demawhso, Kayah State.

According to security personnel, these reports are entirely inaccurate. Security forces conduct operations based on confidential information provided by civilians regarding terrorists hideouts in the region. The operations specifically target terrorists and do not involve civilian areas.

These false reports are spread through social media platforms in a bid to mislead the public, create confusion and tarnish the image of security forces. Authorities have warned the public to be cautious of such misinformation, which aims to support terrorist activities. — MNA/KZL



This screenshot validates misinformation.

ECONOMY

WORLD/AD

Western companies eye renewed collaboration with Moscow

The future of Russian hydrocarbon supplies to Europe depends on the position of the transit country (Ukraine) and European Union buyers.

RUSSIA receives signals from Western companies indicating the importance of cooperation with Moscow for them and hopes to develop an effective format of interaction, Director of the Department of Economic Cooperation of the Russian Foreign Ministry Dmitry Birichevsky told Sputnik.

“We can see that [interaction with Russia] is important for Western economic operators and the signals we get from them prove this. We hope that we will be able to de-



Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed Russia's readiness to supply natural gas (referred to as “blue” fuel) through Ukraine and the remaining section of the Nord Stream gas pipeline after the terrorist attack. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

velop an effective format of interaction with them,” Birichevsky said in an in-

terview.

Moscow is always open to dialogue, the of-

ficial added.

In November, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia could see “certain signals” from Western companies indicating that they want to return to the Russian market. And the companies can do that, but under new conditions, the president said.

Russia is ready to supply gas to Europe, but the prospects for such supplies depend on the position of buyers, Birichevsky added. — SPUTNIK

Shanghai economy size surpasses 5 trillion yuan in 2024

SHANGHAI'S economy exceeded five trillion yuan (about US\$695.6 billion) in 2024, mayor of the east China metropolis, Gong Zheng, said Wednesday.

Shanghai's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have grown by about five per cent year on year in 2024, Gong said while delivering a government work report at the ongoing third session of the 16th Shanghai Municipal People's Congress. Shanghai also targeted GDP growth of around five per cent for 2025.

The 2024 feat comes just three years after Shanghai's GDP first surpassed four trillion yuan. Shanghai in 2006 became the first Chinese main-

land city to have a GDP of more than one trillion yuan.

The 2024 growth was hard-won given the grim and complex economic situation and rising risks and challenges at home and abroad, said Sun Lixing, a local political advisor and a researcher with the Institute of World Economy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

The achievement came after Shanghai took a series of measures to optimize its economic structure and boost growth momentum and innovation, said Ma Haiqian, vice president of the Shanghai Academy of Development and Reform. — Xinhua



In 2024, Shanghai advanced as global economic, financial, trade, shipping, and innovation hub. This photo taken on 22 May 2024 shows a “light-out” factory of Baosteel in east China's Shanghai. **PHOTO: GONG BING/XINHUA/FILE**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2424S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SITC JUNDE VOY.NO. (2424S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SITC CONTAINER LINE CO., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (060N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V SOL PIONEER VOY.NO. (060N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (198N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BANGKOK VOY.NO. (198N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25002)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BEYPORE SULTAN VOY.NO. (25002)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S CONNEXT SHIPPING PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3502S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL FAITH VOY.NO. (3502S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **17-1-2025** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Pfizer offers to sell 700 mln more shares of Haleon



Pfizer Inc, the American multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology corporation, is offering around 700 million shares in Haleon Plc, representing a roughly 7.7 per cent stake in the maker of Sensodyne toothpaste. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

PFIZER Inc, the American multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology corporation, is offering around 700 million shares in Haleon Plc, representing a roughly 7.7 per cent stake in the maker of Sensodyne toothpaste, reported Bloomberg News.

This cuts Pfizer's stake to about 7.3 per cent in the British consumer healthcare group, Reuters cited a bookrunner.

The deal could raise around US\$3.1 billion for the seller, which is offering the shares through an accelerated placement with investors. Pfizer sold shares of Haleon in multiple deals last year.

Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan Chase & Co are leading the sale.

"There will be no sale of any Ordinary Shares in the form of American depository shares in Haleon," Pfizer noted. "The price per Sale Share will be determined by way of an accelerated book-building process to institutional investors." — Xinhua

Meta plans to cut another 5% of lowest performers

US Social media giant Meta is planning to cut about five per cent of staff it considers to be its lowest performers, according to a Bloomberg report on Tuesday.

An internal memo sent to staff by chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said he had "decided to raise the bar on performance management" in order to "move out low-performers faster", the report said.

According to the memo Zuckerberg said the company typically "manage out people who

aren't meeting expectations over the course of a year", but was now planning on "more extensive performance-based cuts".

Meta is said to have already cut about five per cent of low performers during 2024, but has a target of 10 per cent for its current "performance cycle", which meant it was looking to "exit approximately another five per cent of our current employees who have been with the company long enough to receive a performance rating". — Xinhua

Cambodian govt provides special bailout of US\$30 mln to stabilize paddy rice prices

THE Cambodian government has provided a special bailout of US\$30 million to buy paddy rice from farmers, helping stabilize the market amid the dramatic paddy rice prices, an official said.

Speaking at a press conference live televised Wednesday night, Kao Thach, chief executive officer of the state-owned Agricultural and Rural Development Bank, said the government has always paid high attention to the agricultural sector, especially to the livelihoods of the farmers.

"To stabilize the price of paddy rice, the government decided today to provide an additional special



A woman cleans rice in a rice shop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 20 November 2014. **PHOTO: SOVANNARA/XINHUA/FILE**

bailout of US\$30 million through the Agricultural and Rural Development Bank to purchase paddy rice from farmers," he

said.

The latest move came after the price of OM rice varieties dropped significantly to about 800 riels

(\$0.2) per kilogramme since January this year from about 1,350 riels (\$0.33) per kilogramme in previous years. — Xinhua

Notice for Change of Registration Distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official registration distributor has been changed for the following pesticides distributed by Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. to Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration		Registration distributors	
			Type	Number	Old	New
1	DAR 260 SC	Flubendiamide 20% + Lambda-cyhalothrin 6% SC	Full	F2023-2242	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary. Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Address- Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Notice for Change of Registration Distributor

Notice is hereby given that the official registration distributor has been changed for the following pesticides distributed by Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd. to Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration		Registration distributors	
			Type	Number	Old	New
1	Alphard 10 EC	Alpha-Cypermethrin 10% EC	Full	F2015-1066	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.
2	Dattha 70WDG	Chlorfenapyr 2% + Emamectin Benzoate 5% WDG	Provisional	P2022-5693	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.
3	Focite 250 EC	Cypermethrin 5% + Profenofos 20% EC	Full	F2023-2870	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.
4	Hnaung 75SC	Chlorothalonil 37.5% + Propamocarb Hydrochloride 37.5% SC	Provisional	P2020-5171	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.
5	Spy 25 EC	Difenoconazole 25% EC	Full	F2019-1512	Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd.	Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd. invites objections to Co-secretary. Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon from all parties within a period of fourteen (14) days from the publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the period prescribed, parties mentioned above shall proceed with the completion of formalities recorded with the Pesticide Registration Board.

Address- Pyinsa Crop Science Co., Ltd.

No. (95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th Miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

ROLLING UPDATES

WORLD

Thai PM says nearly fell for foreign leader phone scam

The scam involved an AI-generated voice that mimicked a well-known foreign leader.



Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the 37-year-old daughter of former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, is Thailand's youngest prime minister. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra almost fell victim to a phone scam using AI to impersonate a foreign leader's voice, she said Wednesday.

The PM, the youngest daughter

of telecoms billionaire and ex-prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, said she received a message in a voice sounding identical to a well-known leader, without identifying the person.

"In the clip, he said he was looking forward to seeing me and working together," she said.

She missed a call from the same number during the night, before a second voice message the next day aroused her suspicions.

"The voice said Thailand is the only ASEAN country which has not yet made a donation — when I heard that, I thought 'this is not right'," she said.

A text message asking for money to be sent to a bank account outside Thailand soon followed, confirming her doubts.

"I knew it for sure when I saw that," she said. Paetongtarn did not say when she received the messages. So-called "call centre scams" are common in Thailand, in which fraudsters impersonate police, government officials or bank staff — often using automated "robocalls" to make the first contact. — AFP

Majority of Americans oppose acquiring Greenland: Poll

MORE than half of American people stand against Greenland joining the United States, according to a joint poll conducted by the USA Today news portal and Boston's Suffolk University.

Over 50 per cent of respondents (53 per cent) said that they oppose Greenland joining the US, while 29 per cent consider it a good but unrealistic idea, and 11 per cent expressed the desire for the incoming administration of US President-elect Donald Trump to do anything possible to take control over the island.

Among the supporters of the Democratic Party, 86 per cent opposed the idea, while among the Republicans, 21 per cent said that it is a bad idea, 48 per cent said that the idea is good but unrealistic, and 23 per cent expressed full support for it.

The poll was conducted from 7 to 11 January among 1,000 US citizens.

Trump, who is due to assume office on 20 January, called it an "absolute necessity" for the US to own Greenland. Greenlandic Prime Minister Mute Egede responded by saying that the island was not for sale.

Greenland was a colony of Denmark until 1953. It remains part of the kingdom, but in 2009 it received autonomy with the ability to self-govern and make independent choices in domestic policy. — SPUTNIK



Greenland, a resource-rich Danish possession, is known for its vast natural reserves, including minerals, fish, and potential renewable energy sources. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

BRIEF: WORLD

Spain raises flag at Damascus embassy after 12-year closure

SPAIN raised its flag at Madrid's Damascus embassy Thursday, in the presence of its top diplomat more than a decade after suspending activity and as Western countries resume ties following Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's ouster.

Spain closed the mission in March 2012, a year after Assad began brutal repression of anti-government protests, triggering more than 13 years of war.

"It is an honour for me to be here in person," Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said at the embassy, where the Spanish national anthem was played, an AFP correspondent reported. — AFP

Japan mission to NATO launches in Brussels

THE Mission of Japan to NATO was officially launched Wednesday in Brussels, separating its function from the Japanese Embassy in Belgium.

The move comes as Japan, which established its mission to NATO in 2018, seeks to boost cooperation with the alliance amid China's growing military assertiveness and Russia's prolonged invasion of Ukraine. — Kyodo

Cuba declares 13 soldiers dead after blast at military warehouse

THIRTEEN soldiers have died in a fire and ensuing explosion at a military warehouse in the eastern province of Holguin over a week ago, Cuba's Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (Minfar) said Wednesday.

Investigations and analyses conducted by specialists showed that there is no possibility of survival at the site, which is located in the community of Melones in the municipality of Rafael Freyre, according to a Minfar statement.

"After several days of intensive work, it was determined that the probable cause of the incident is linked to an electrical failure caused by a short circuit inside the facility," it said. — Xinhua

S Korea president's lawyers say he will refuse questioning

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's defence team said Thursday he will refuse further questioning at the headquarters of the country's anti-corruption body, according to local media reports, a day after he was detained over accusations of inciting insurrection through his declaration of martial law on 3 December.

The president "fully explained his position" Wednesday, one of his lawyers was quoted as saying by Yonhap News Agency. Yoon underwent questioning after being transported to the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials, which is leading the probe into Yoon's short-lived imposition of martial law. — Kyodo

SPORTS

Arsenal optimistic in Premier League title race: Raya

ARSENAL goalkeeper David Raya believes his title-chasing side can catch Liverpool after closing the gap on the Premier League leaders.

Mikel Arteta's second-placed side moved within four points of Liverpool thanks to their stirring fightback in Wednesday's 2-1 win against arch rivals Tottenham.

Trailing to Son Heung-min's early opener, the Gunners drew level through Dominic Solanke's own goal before Leandro Trossard fired the winner on the stroke of half-time. It was a much-needed victory for Arsenal, who had gone three games without one in all competitions — a frustrating streak that included an FA Cup third round exit against 10-man Manchester United and a League Cup semifinal first loss to Newcastle.



Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya. PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool are still title favourites as they hold a game in hand over Arsenal, but Raya is optimistic the north Londoners are capable of reeling in the leaders.

"Yes, of course. In football, everything can happen," he said.

"Three weeks ago, people were saying that Liverpool had the title in their hands. But it is just

football and everything changes in two or three matches.

"We have to focus on ourselves, try and win every game, and see where we are at the end of the season.

"We don't want to think too far ahead because that will play badly against us. We have to live in the present, that's the most important thing."

On the eve of the north London derby, Arsenal forward Gabriel Jesus learned he has an anterior cruciate ligament injury that could rule him out for the rest of the season.

The Brazilian forward's absence, along with that of Bukayo Saka after hamstring surgery, has left Arsenal short of attacking options. But Raya said Arsenal's collective mentality would help them cope with those injury blows. — AFP

Obituary

Acknowledgement

Jorgen Jorgensen (JJ)
84 years

I would like to say "Thank you so much, dear" to my beloved husband Jorgen Jorgensen, who was called into His heavenly home on 25 December 2024 (Christmas Day), for his care and love for me throughout his life, and I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my family, relatives, friends and colleagues far and near, for their love and for their prayers, visits, calls, flowers and every act of kindness. I wish to thank everyone for your love and support during my time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

Angeline Jensen

Germany's Maier makes history by winning para cross-country gold at Torino 2025

PARALYMPIC silver medalist Marco Maier of Germany claimed the first-ever para gold medal at the Turin 2025 Winter Universiade on Wednesday, winning the men's 10-kilometre free para cross-country skiing event.

Maier, who took silver at Beijing 2022, finished in 22 minutes and 37.3 seconds in a race where para cross-country ath-

letes competed alongside non-disabled skiers.

This marks the first para gold medal in the 76-year history of the FISU World University Games.

"For me, this is a special moment and it is also the first time we get to compete with the non-disabled athletes. I loved the experience," said Maier, a business law major at IU International University. — Xinhua

Harry Kane's penalty mastery: The science behind his success



Harry Kane was on the scoresheet. PHOTO: AFP

HARRY Kane's record of 27 successfully executed penalties has cemented his status as one of the best in world football. The 31-year-old, often dubbed a "penalty machine", added to his streak during Bayern Munich's 5-0 victory over Hoffenheim, scoring his 18th penalty for the club. His other success-

es have come with England and Tottenham Hotspur.

Each of Kane's penalty attempts is scrutinized in detail, but a missed penalty at a crucial moment reshaped his approach. After failing to equalize against France in the 2022 FIFA World Cup quarterfi-

nals, the England captain sought to refine his technique, achieving an impressive success rate of nearly 90 per cent, well above the global average of 75 per cent.

Kane's adjustments may have been inspired by Robert Lewandowski, the former Dortmund and Bayern star now at Barcelona. The Polish striker is known for slightly pausing during his run-up to read the goalkeeper's movements. Similarly, Kane has refined his pre-shot routine to keep his intentions unpredictable.

"Sometimes I decide the corner at the last moment, or I decide where to shoot a day before," Kane said. He combines sharp precision with mental preparation, taking two or three deep breaths to calm himself before focusing entirely on the moment. — Xinhua

Punishing Paolini sprints into third round at Australian Open

FOURTH seed Jasmine Paolini shook off some early nerves to sail into the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Mexico's Renata Zarazua.

Paolini followed Jannik Sinner on to Melbourne Park's centre court and served notice she could match her fellow Italian's success there last year when he

won his maiden Grand Slam title.

The energetic world number four was playing on Rod Laver Arena for the first time and dropped her serve in the opening game.

"I don't know why, but maybe I was nervous, you know, first time playing here and it's an amazing court," Paolini said. — AFP



Italy's Jasmine Paolini hits a return against Mexico's Renata Zarazua. PHOTO: AFP



A vehicle transfers a container at the dry port of the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor in the Chongqing International Logistics Hub Park in Shapingba District of Chongqing, southwest China, 30 July 2024. **PHOTO: LYU SHUAI/XINHUA**

New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor connects 555 ports worldwide

The New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor links China's western regions to 555 ports in 127 countries.

THE New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, a key logistics network connecting China's western regions to global markets, has expanded its reach to 555 ports in 127 countries and regions.

With an operational hub based in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, this trade corridor connects global ports via railways, sea routes and highways through southern Chinese provincial regions such as Guangxi and Yunnan. The

cargo service now covers 157 points in 73 domestic cities.

According to the data released on Thursday by the Chongqing Port and Logistics Office, more than 251,800 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of goods were transported through Chongqing via the trade corridor in 2024, with the total value reaching 46.7 billion yuan (about US\$6.4 billion, up 41 per cent and 67 per cent year-on-year respectively. The number of rail-sea trains running through the

trade corridor each year has surged from more than 900 in 2019 to over 10,000 in 2024, while the variety of goods has expanded from dozens to over 1,160 types, said Liu Taiping, chairman of the New Land-Sea Corridor Operation Co Ltd. Relying on the fast and efficient corridor, specialty products from western China, such as goji berry juice and red wine from Ningxia, oranges from Chongqing and tea from Guizhou, have become new growth drivers for local foreign trade. — Xinhua

THE JOYFUL CRIES OF GAZANS

Thousands across Gaza celebrate ceasefire deal

CROWDS of Gazans chanted and embraced on Wednesday as news spread that a ceasefire and hostage release deal had been reached between Israel and Hamas aimed at ending more than 15 months of war in the Palestinian territory.

After a US official and a source close to the negotiations first revealed the agreement, Israel cautioned that several points "remain unresolved" that it hoped would be addressed.

But celebrations were already underway in Gaza, where AFP journalists saw crowds of people hugging and taking photos to mark the announcement.

"I can't believe that this nightmare of more than a year is finally coming to an end. We have lost so many people, we've lost everything," said Randa Sameeh, a 45-year-old who was displaced from Gaza City to the Nuseirat Camp in the centre of the territory.

"We need a lot of rest. As soon as the truce begins, I will go to the cemetery to visit my brother and family members. We buried them in Deir el-Balah cemetery without proper graves. We will build them new graves and write their names on them."

— AFP

EU unveils plan to protect hospitals from rising cyberattacks

THE European Union announced urgent new measures on Wednesday to tackle the growing threat posed to hospitals and the broader healthcare sector by a surge in cyberattacks.

Such attacks include data breaches or ransomware — a form of digital blackmail in which hackers encrypt data or block services, demanding users pay

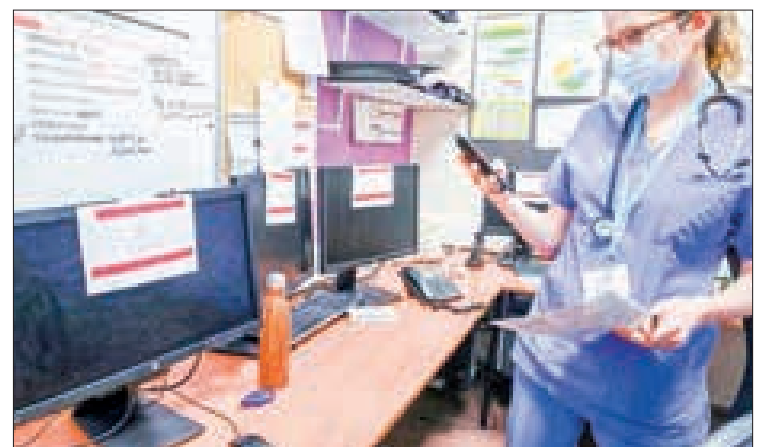
to regain access.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in November warned such ransomware attacks on hospitals "can be issues of life and death" as WHO and some 50 countries raised concerns at the United Nations about the rising threat.

There were 309 "significant

cybersecurity incidents" affecting the EU's healthcare sector in 2023, the European Commission said, more than any other critical industry in the bloc.

The EU warned hospitals and healthcare providers were "particularly vulnerable" to such threats, which can disrupt treatment and risk patients' data safety. — AFP



A nurse stands in front of out-of-service computers following a cyber attack on Villefranche-sur-Saône's hospital complex in eastern France on 16 February 2021. **PHOTO: PHILIPPE DESMAZES/AFP/FILE**